

# Alexandra Rusu

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## CONTACT

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## EDUCATION

### Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Nov. 2013 – Feb. 2019 (expected): PhD Candidate, Economics

- Dissertation: *Essays in Public Economics*, advisor Bas Jacobs
- Research interests: public economics, corruption, optimal taxation, macroeconomics
- My PhD was partially funded by a grant from the Dutch Academy of Sciences (NWO)

### Tinbergen Institute, the Netherlands

2011 – 2013: MPhil Economics (Research Master)

- Thesis: *Optimal Capital Income Taxation with Liquidity Constraints*, advisor Bas Jacobs
- Specialisations: Macroeconomics and Empirical Microeconomics.
- Partial scholarship for the first year (€2,200), full scholarship in the second year (€12,000)

### Utrecht University, the Netherlands

2008 – 2011: BSc (Hons) Economics and Business (*cum laude*)

- Thesis: *A Cross-Sectional Analysis of the Optimal Scale in Banking*, advisor J. A. Bikker
- Specialisations: Monetary and Financial Economics, International Economics.
- Graduated from the multidisciplinary Honours Programme (30 ECTS)
- GRE scores: Quantitative 790/800 (91st percentile), Verbal 610/800 (88th percentile)

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

### **You Sponsor Mine, I Procure Yours: Pharmaceutical Sponsorships and Hospital Procurement** (Job Market Paper)

I investigate possible instances of influence peddling and conflict of interest in Romanian public hospitals by creating a unique dataset linking hospital procurement contracts with sponsorships from pharmaceutical firms to doctors in public hospitals. Sponsorships increase the probability of receiving a contract by 5 percentage points. Sponsoring a doctor in management has a slightly larger effect than sponsoring a regular doctor: the difference is economically significant only for direct contracts, which are the least transparent. Furthermore, contracts related to sponsorships are 11% higher.

### **Why is the Long-run Tax on Capital Income Zero? Reinterpreting the Chamley-Judd Result** (with Bas Jacobs)

The Chamley-Judd result is a cornerstone in the literature arguing against capital income taxation. We show that the intuition for this result follows from standard public finance theory and that the steady-state assumption is more important than previously thought.

### **Optimal Capital Income Taxation with Heterogeneous Returns** (with Bas Jacobs, Aart Gerritsen, Kevin Spiritus)

Empirical evidence suggests that due to market imperfections, returns to capital can vary across agents and be correlated with ability. Using theory and numerical simulations, we study how capital income taxes can be used to strike a balance between taxing rents in capital returns and distorting individual decisions.

### **Optimal Capital Income Taxation with Liquidity Constraints** (Master thesis, advisor Bas Jacobs)

We investigate the trade-offs arising when taxing capital income in the presence of borrowing constraints. We show using theory and numerical simulations how liquidity constraints limit the scope for capital income taxes, but can also lead to higher labor supply.

PRESENTATIONS (SELECTION)	<p>ISEO Summer School, Iseo, Italy, 2017</p> <p>Conference of the Romanian Academic Economists (ERMAS), Romania, 2015, 2018</p> <p>IIPF Summer School, Warsaw, Poland, 2015</p> <p>European Economic Association (EEA), Toulouse, France, 2014</p> <p>International Institute for Public Finance (IIPF), Lugano, Switzerland, 2014</p> <p>Workshop on Economic Theory (EBIM), Bielefeld, Germany, 2014</p>
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<p><b>Erasmus School of Economics</b>, the Netherlands</p> <p><i>Lecturer at the Tutor Academy (part-time)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From Jan. 2018: Select, train and coordinate undergraduate teaching assistants.</li> </ul> <p><i>Coordinator</i></p> <p>Coordinated theses and projects on a variety of topics in macroeconomics and public economics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jan. 2013 - Mar. 2017: BSc thesis coordinator, project coordinator for Tax Policy (MSc).</li> </ul> <p><i>Instructor and teaching assistant</i></p> <p>Delivered lectures and tutorials, created and graded assignments and exams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jan. - Feb. 2014, 2015, 2016: Macroeconomics (BSc). Average Evaluation: 4.3/5</li> <li>• Sep. - Oct. 2014, 2015: Advanced Public Economics (MSc). Average Evaluation: 4.3/5</li> </ul> <p><b>Erasmus University College</b>, the Netherlands</p> <p><i>Tutor, Course Coordinator, Thesis Coordinator</i></p> <p>Delivered tutorials, created and graded assignments and exams, developed courses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apr. - Dec. 2017: Macroeconomics, International Economics, Data Visualisation, Big History</li> </ul> <p><b>Tinbergen Institute</b>, the Netherlands</p> <p><i>Teaching Assistant</i></p> <p>Delivered tutorials, graded assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sep. - Dec. 2013: Statistics (PhD), Mathematics of Optimisation (PhD), Matlab (PhD)</li> </ul>
OTHER ACTIVITIES	<p><b>Code4Romania</b></p> <p><i>Co-Founder</i>, 2015 – present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsibilities: strategy, institutional partnerships, data. Manager of a large interdisciplinary project which pools public data on Romanian politicians and presents it in a user-friendly way.</li> </ul> <p><b>Erasmus PhD Association Rotterdam</b> (EPAR)</p> <p><i>President</i>, 2014 – 2015</p> <p><b>Tinbergen Institute Student Council</b></p> <p><i>Chair</i>, 2011 – 2013</p>
AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS	<p>Personal Democracy Forum 2018 (€500), POINT Civic Tech Conference 2017 (€1000), ISEO Institute Summer School Grant 2017 (€1500), IIPF Summer School grant 2015 (€1000), Luxembourg Institute for European and International Studies Grant 2012 (€335)</p>
COMPUTER SKILLS	<p>Matlab, STATA, Microsoft Excel, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, C++, Python, EViews, XML, SQL</p>
LANGUAGES	<p>Romanian (native), English (fluent), Dutch (professional), French and Spanish (conversational)</p>